Shorne Parish Council

Borough of Gravesham

THE PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

May 2024

Shorne Crossroads

At the Kent County Council meeting on 28th March, Cllr Bryan Sweetland kindly submitted a residents' petition containing the names of over 1300 residents and users of Shorne Crossroads calling on Kent County Council to make safety improvements at this location. The petition did not achieve sufficient numbers to be debated at a full council meeting or at the Environment & Transport Cabinet Committee, but did achieve sufficient numbers to be referred to the Joint Transport Board which is made up of representatives of Gravesham Borough Council and Kent County Council. This is likely to take place later in the year.

Litter Patrol Called Off

Regrettably the group litter patrol scheduled for Saturday 13th April did not attract sufficient volunteers and was cancelled. This follows the cancellation of the previous group litter patrol in October last year due to lack of support. Although a few hardy souls still carried out their own litter picks, the organised litter patrols equipped and insured by the Parish Council will be discontinued. In future, we will rely on Gravesham Street Champions and other kind residents who regularly pick litter in the village at a time of their own choosing.

Lorry Watch

Vehicles wider than 6'6" (2 metres) are prohibited from entering Shorne village except to gain lawful access to locations within the zone. The prohibited zone extends from the junction of Park Pale in Brewers Road to the south, to the Pear Tree Lane and Forge Lane junctions with the A226 Gravesend Road in the north, and of course all roads leading from them. The same width restriction also applies to Thong Lane between the A2 and Vigilant Way. In addition, vehicles weighing more than 7.5 tonnes are prohibited from using Green Farm Lane except for lawful access. In order to deter drivers of non-compliant vehicles from disregarding the prohibitions, Shorne Parish Council operates a passive Lorry Watch scheme, and invites residents to report any non-compliant company vehicles observed to the Council. On receipt of the required information, the Council will contact the company concerned to ask why the offending vehicle was in the restricted zone, and if they had no valid reason, what action they intend to take to avoid any repetition. Where appropriate, the Council will also report the incident to Police.

Details of the scheme are on our website at https://shorneparishcouncil.org/lorry-watch/.

Green Farm Lane ANPR Survey

Earlier this year, KCC carried out a CCTV survey using ANPR cameras at each end of Green Farm Lane to establish the extent of illegal HGV movements through the

lane. Out of over 2,130 vehicle movements, 14 were by vehicles over 7.5 tonnes. It was subsequently established that six of these vehicles had a lawful reason for accessing Green Farm Lane. A further four vehicles entered and left Green Farm Lane from the same point of access without passing through, and it can reasonably be assumed that these also had a legitimate reason for accessing the lane. Of the remaining four vehicle movements, two were by the same vehicle, so only three vehicles were observed using the road without legitimate reason. Lorry Watch letters were sent to two of the vehicle operators, the operator of the third being unidentified.

Freedom of the Parish

At an Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council on 11th April, Robin Theobald was granted honorary Freedom of the Parish of Shorne for the valuable and eminent services he has rendered to the parish over the past 50 years. It is planned to present Robin with the award at the Annual Parish Assembly on 25th April. The parish magazine had already gone to print at the time of the Assembly, and this will be reported on in the June edition.

Parish Council Meetings in May

7.30pm Thursday 9th May	-	Annual Parish Council Meeting
7.30pm Thursday 23rd May	-	Planning & Highways Committee

The meetings will take place in the conference room at Shorne Village Hall.

Bob Lane
Shorne Parish Council